

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-06 FEAE-00

DODE-00 ERDA-07 PM-04 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /132 W

-----241900Z 023623 /46

R 241340Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9737

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 0612

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: GEISEL AND SILVEIRA ON U.S.-GOB RELATIONS, NUCLEAR
ACCORD/WEAPONS

1. SUMMARY. PROMPTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS BOTH PRESIDENT GEISEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE VOICED OPTIMISM IN PRESS STATEMENT ABOUT FUTURE OF U.S.-GOB RELATIONSHIP, NOTING LONG TRADITION OF AMICABLE TIES. PRESIDENT USED OCCASION TO AFFIRM THAT BRAZIL HAD NO DESIRE TO BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ONLY TO SOLVE ITS ENERGY PROBLEM, AND THAT NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH FRG WOULD BE FULFILLED. FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED STRONG STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S CALL FOR LIMITS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INDICATING USG WOULD HAVE BRAZIL'S SUPPORT. GOB HAS ALSO DESPATCHED MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING TO JOURNALISTS WHILE IN RIO ON JANUARY 21

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FOR THE INAUGURATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON GOB-USG RELATIONS, FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING LIMITATION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. GEISEL ASSURED PRESS THERE WAS NO REASON WHY U.S.-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO BE "AS GOOD AS

THEY HAVE BEEN UP TO NOW" AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER TAKES OFFICE BECAUSE "BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE EXTRAORDINARY LINKS AND INTERESTS." PRESIDENT ADDED, GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL HAS ALWAYS "LIVED" WELL WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHETHER THEY ARE DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS. GEISEL ALSO DENIED THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH THE FRG WOULD NOT BE FULFILLED. HE EMPHASIZED "BRAZIL IS A PEACE-LOVING COUNTRY AND DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BRAZIL ONLY WANTS TO RESOLVE ITS ENERGY PROBLEM."

4. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SIMILARLY QUOTED JANUARY 21 SILVEIRA NOTED THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS WITH SOME FREQUENCY WITH THE U.S., BUT THAT THERE WERE MANY OVERLAPPING POINTS OF INTEREST AND THAT ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS ARE NEGOTIABLE. HE PREDICATED USG UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD HAVE A CHANGE OF STYLE IN ITS INTERNAL POLITICS, BUT NEVER A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE. FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED "PROBLEMS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BRAZIL ARE FUNDAMENTALLY ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. THE AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED AND THERE COULD BE A CHANGE IN STYLE IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL AND LATIN AMERICA." THIS POSSIBLE MODIFICATION, HOWEVER, DID NOT ALARM HIM BECAUSE THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD A LONG TRADITION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS. DIVERGENCIES ON ECONOMIC MATTERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES "HAVE OCCURED IN OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS" AND ARE NOT A FUNCTION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, ABOUT FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE "THE MECHANISM FOR SEARCHING FOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IS FUNCTIONING WITH SUCCESS." UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM THAT HE HAD ARRANGED WITH EX-SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD CONTINUE AND DID NOT NEED TO BE RENEGOTIATED WITH SECRETARY VANCE. (ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CLAIMS, HOWEVER, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER'S TONE SIGNIFIED THAT WHILE GOB DID NOT EXPECT DIRECT PRESSURE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, IT DID EXPECT SOME CHILL IN RELATIONS. NEW U.S. PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED IN HIS PRIORITIES FOR LATIN AMERICA U.S. RELATIONS WITH CANADA AND MEXICO, SOLUTION OF PANAMA CANAL CRISIS AND A DIALOGUE WITH CUBA. BRAZIL HAD NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A PRIORITY AREA.)

5. SILVEIRA COMPLEMENTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR ARMS CALLING IT "HIGHLY LAUDABLE" AND SAID "ON THIS POINT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF BRAZIL. WE WILL SUPPORT HIM STRONGLY IN THE FIGHT FOR TOTAL DISARMMENT WHICH WILL BE A GIGANTIC STEP IN THE SEARCH FOR WORLD PEACE." FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT BRAZIL "NEVER PLANNED AND DOES NOT INTEND TO UTILIZE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WEAPONS."

6. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO ALSO QUOTES SILVEIRA EXTENSIVELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT CARTER INAUGURAL ADDRESS. FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED THAT COUNTRY LIKE BRAZIL HAD TO DEVELOP BY STAGES AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HAD TO BE VIEWED WITHIN CONTEXT OF COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ITS PEOPLE. HE SAID "AN INDIVIDUAL IN THESE (DEVELOPING) COUNTRIES IS NOT GOING TO RENOUNCE HIS MORE SOPHISTICATED ASPIRATIONS, BUT BASIC PRINCIPLES COME FIRST. IF THE MAJOR ANXIETY OF THE POPULATION IS FOOD AND HEALTH, THESE PROBLEMS COME FIRST, AND HAVE TO BE RESOLVED IN THE FIRST PLACE."

7. PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAD SENT MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON INAUGURATION DAY. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT GOB HAD REFRAINED FROM EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER
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AFTER HIS ELECTION, INDICATING THAT IT WAS GOB PRACTICE TO CONGRATULATE NEW CHIEFS OF STATE UPON THEIR ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE.
CRIMMINS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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